



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 15, 2008

H.R. 4080

A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a separate nonimmigrant classification for fashion models

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 14, 2008

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4080 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant in any year. In addition, we estimate that enacting H.R. 4080 could increase revenues by less than \$500,000 a year in fiscal years 2009 through 2018.

H.R. 4080 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4080 would establish a new nonimmigrant category for certain fashion models. Those individuals would be able to enter the United States and remain for up to 10 years under the new classification. The bill would limit the number of nonimmigrant visas granted to models to 1,000 for each fiscal year, not including any spouses or children accompanying the applicant.

The Department of State collects fees from persons who apply for such visas from overseas. Under current law, the department charges an application fee of \$131 per person. In addition, DHS would collect a fee of \$320 to process the visa applications submitted by fashion models. All of those fees are classified as offsetting collections (for the Department of State) or offsetting receipts (for DHS) and are retained and spent by the departments. CBO estimates that the net budgetary effect of those increased collections would be less than \$500,000 a year.

In addition, the Department of State may charge additional fees for issuing a nonimmigrant visa. Those fees vary by country and are deposited in the Treasury as revenues. Based on the number of fashion models entering the United States as nonimmigrants in recent years, CBO estimates that the department would process fewer than 1,000 additional applications annually and that enacting H.R. 4080 would increase revenues by less than \$500,000 a year in fiscal years 2009 through 2018.

Finally, some of the additional persons admitted under this legislation could become eligible for certain federal benefits, but CBO expects that any increase in direct spending for benefit programs would not be significant over the 2009-2018 period.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for DHS's costs) and Sunita D'Monte (for the Department of State's costs). This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.